The New Hampshire Building Trades is holding a rally in support of the NH Job Corp Center, on Thursday December 17th at 4 pm. It is a one-hour event at Bronstein Park in Manchester, at the corner of Hanover and Beech Streets. We are encouraging all members to attend. We need a big turnout to show the public that local construction workers have been affected by the actions of the ABC and North Branch. We want to show that local workers support the PLA provision and that the claims of the ABC that local workers would not be employed are false. Please make every effort to attend and show your support.

We recently attended a post outage meeting with Williams Power and a representative of Florida Power and Light. They reported that, from all accounts, the outage was a success. Williams reported that they had the greatest number of employees on an outage to date and where very happy with the work that was done in a timely and professional manner. Thank you to all for your dedication and hard work.

The AFL-CIO, along with the Building Trades, is working on legislation for the upcoming session in Concord that addresses public procurement. Currently in the state, when something is put out to bid whether it is goods, services or construction, the only thing taken into account at bid opening is the lowest price. We are proposing legislation that would enable the state to consider price and performance criteria which may include: contractors past performance, commitment to hire NH residents, whether they offer affordable health insurance and offer a retirement plan. We feel this could benefit our contractors in the bidding process and benefit the state in the long run. Keeping NH residents employed on local projects and ensuring that people have the ability to care for themselves with health insurance and pension plans would go a long way to alleviating the need for state assistance services in the future.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Ordinarily I'd like to print a snappy holiday story or poem in the December issue. But I have to be the Grinch this year. There are only two things I want for Christmas (and the rest of the year, too!!!)

• PLEASE let me know when you change your address, your phone number, or your e-mail address. Each and every time. Don’t assume a “Change of Address” card at the post office gets it done. IT DOESN’T! All that does is get the PO to forward your mail for 3 months. After that they start RETURNING IT. We can't call you for a job or send you invitations if we don’t have an accurate way to contact you.

• DO NOT use the union office phone number as your “contact number” with doctors, schools, banks, etc… Please. We know that this industry forces you to move from job to job and it's hard to keep changing your number with all these people every time you move to a different employer. HOWEVER, we cannot and will not give out your personal information to anyone that calls asking for it. We also cannot serve as an answering service and deliver messages reminding you of your next doctor appointment or telling you that you're late on your car payment.

Using the union office number can have very serious repercussions. We recently had a very scary incident caused by this practice. Apparently a member gave the office number to their child's school. On a day when the weather was snowy but not calling for a blizzard, this school decided to give their students early release. In this automated world, they recorded an announcement and had their phone system call every number in their database. Well, don’t you think I wasn’t surprised when I answered the phone in the union office and heard this school’s taped message telling me they were closing at noon and I should come get my child! Then I became worried, because there was no way I could know who that message was meant for and I realized that someone’s child was going to be stranded at school waiting for a ride that wasn't coming!

Please, it is EXTREMELY important that you give everyone who may need to reach you your home number or the number of a relative where they can leave a message. Or better yet, a cell phone number so they can reach you directly. Sure, you may not want to take that call from the bank, but you definitely don't want to miss that call from your child in trouble.

Q: How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?
A: Nowadays, only four angels can dance there. Formerly there was no limit, but OSHA passed the Angel Safety Law recently, which also requires that the pin must be inspected twice each year for structural defects.

Plumbing Seminars 2010:
Vendor Training:
Emerson Swan - 2 hrs towards gasfitter vendor training requirements.
Thursday, January 28, 2010 / 6 - 8 PM Munchkin Boilers
Registration required by January 14, 2010
NFPA 54 Gas Code Training:
Thursdays, Jan 14th & Feb 25th, 2010 / 5 - 9 PM
Registration required by January 7, 2010
For either of the above programs, PLEASE register via E-MAIL TO: JATC@UALU131.ORG

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Office Bits & Bytes
Mo Demers / Office Administrator

WARDFLEX CERTIFICATES
The following members may pick up their certificates at the Local Union hall
Monday thru Friday
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
Greg Denoncourt
Rick Pelchat
Steve Porelle

Apprenticeship & Training
Kim Trisciani / Training Coordinator

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“Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!”

~Charles Dickens, 
The Pickwick Papers, 1836

If it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men . . .

they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.

Member News

The Children’s Christmas Party was lots of fun, with cookies, cake, ice cream and gifts!
And Santa Claus! (our own Cliff Moberg).
The children were entertained while they waited for Santa Claus to arrive by Steve Lachance’s daughter Molly (and friends!) who served as our elves.
They expertly coordinated tables for “Letters To Santa” writing and a coloring contest, as well as performed face painting for all.
Eric Moberg’s daughter Taryan played the very important role of “Santa’s Helper” and presented all the gifts to all the boys and girls.
Clean-up duty was covered by Jimmy Griffin, Dave Pelletier, Steve Lachance and Mo Demers.

Thank you, everyone!!

~Charles Dickens, 
The Pickwick Papers, 1836

Well, the snowy weather has arrived. We had a good turn out for the December meeting before the snow hit. We hope that the weather is in our favor for the remaining winter meetings. We had extra goodies, cake and cookies left from the Children’s Christmas Party. It’s hard to imagine there actually was leftover cookies and cake!

We will be having a guest speaker at the next meeting, January 12th. The Moxy Man! He has been here before. He gives a wonderful history presentation on the origins of the famous drink Moxy. We encourage everyone to try to make this meeting.

I hope that everyone has a safe holiday, where ever you travel.